REMARKS

By way of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Claims 3-6, 8, 12, 13, 15-20, and 22-24 have been amended to delete the multiple dependencies and to make minor editorial changes. No new matter has been introduced by these changes.

It is requested that the application be examined on the basis of the claims as amended.

Early and favorable consideration with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: December 20, 2004

Wendi L. Weinstein

Registration No. 34,456

P.O. Box 1404 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404 (703) 836-6620